

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07873 060947Z

21

ACTION EA-09

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ( ISO ) W  
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R 060809Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1091

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, VN

SUBJECT: CHINA ON VIET-NAM'S REUNIFICATION

SUMMARY: THE COOL BUT CORRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEKING AND HANOI IS THE MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF CHINA'S RESPONSE TO EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH VIET-NAM'S OFFICIAL REUNIFICATION. PRC MEDIA CARRIED A LEADERSHIP MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS, AN EDITORIAL AND THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FONG MIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA TO FORMALLY INDICATE UNIFICATION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. HOWEVER, NO MENTION IS MADE OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OR FRIENDSHIP AND PORTIONS OF THE MESSAGE AND EDITORIALS COULD BE READ AS WARNINGS TO THE VIETNAMESE.

1. UNLIKE MOST OF HANOI'S FRIENDS, THE PRC CAUTIOUSLY WAITED UNTIL THE JULY 3 CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UNIFIED VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEFORE FORMALLY OR  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 07873 060947Z

PUBLICLY EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS. THAT DAY, ALONG WITH

A BRIEF REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION'S WORK, NCNA CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE JOINT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN MAO, NPC CHAIRMAN CHU TEH, AND PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG ADDRESSED TO VIETNAMESE PREIDERNT TON DUC THONG, PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, LE DUAN, ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN TRUONG CHINH, AND PREMIER PHAM VAN DNG. DESPITE ITS COMRADELY SALUTATION, THE MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF THE CHINESE PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE SEEMS DECIDELY LUKEWARM IN TONE. IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, IT TERMS NATIONAL REUNIFICATION A "BIG EVENT IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" AND OF "TREMENDOUS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF VIET-NAM'S STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION." HOWEVER, IN NOTING THAT THE VIETNAMESE ASSEMBLY HAS PROCLAIMED THE REUNIFICATION OF THE "WHOLE OF VIET-NAM, " PEKING COULD BE INDICATING TO HANOI THAT OTHER VIETNAMESE CLAIMS TO DISPUTED AND YET-TO-BE REUNITED AREAS (SUCH AS THE PARACELS AND SPRATLYS) ARE DEFINATELY NOT RECOGNIZED AS VIETNAMESE TERRITORY BY THE PRC.

2. THE STRAINED RELTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PARTIES ARE APPARENT BY SEVERAL OMISSIONS. THE MESSAGE CONCLUDES BY WISHING THE NEW SOCIALIST REPUBLIC "SUCCESS"

AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE "GREAT FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES "GROW STRONGER AND DEVELOP STEADILY". THERE IS NOT MENTION OF FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP NOR OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT OR PARTY-TO-PARTY SUPPORT OR FRIENDSHIP.

3. A SUBSEQUENT JULY 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL IS ONLY SLIGHTLY WARMER IN TONE. WITHOUT REFERENCE AGAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT OR PARTY, IT MERELY NOTES THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLES SHARED JOY AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VIETNAMESE THE EDITORIALS CLAIMS THAT THE VIETNAMESE VICTORY DEALT "VERY HEAVY BLOES" TO IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, AND HEGEMONISM BUT CLAIMS THAT THE SUPERPOWERS ARE "STILL LOCKED IN FIERCE RIVALRY FOR HEGEMONY", WHICH COULD READILY BE CONSIDERED A WARNING TO VIET-NAM ABOUT DEVELOPING TOO CLOSE A RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW.

4. NCNA JULY 5 ALSO NOTED BRIEFLY THE MEETING BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 07873 060947Z

FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO PEKING. ACCORDING TO NCNA, THE MABASSADOR PRESENTED AN OFFICAL NOTE INFORMING THE PRC OF THE NEW SOCIALSIT REPUBLIC.S DESIRE TO CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC IN PLACE OF THE PREVIOUS TWO VIETNAMESE EMBASSIES ACCORDING TO NCNA THE TWO HAS A "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION", BUT AGAIN THERE WAS NOT MENTION OF FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS.

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